

Observer: Betty Hayford

Aldermen present: All. The Clerk was absent. Deputy CM Kim Richardson served as Deputy Clerk.

Media present: Not known from YouTube observation of Zoom meeting.

Meeting began: 5:05 pm

Meeting ended: 7:35 pm

Announcements. The Mayor proclaimed May to be Older Americans Month and Preservation Month. He provided an update on the Covid-19 situation. The rate of new cases is slowing, but more progress is needed before re-opening within Pritzker's Five Phase plan.

The City Manager said there will be presentations for a more extensive budget discussion at the next meeting. She has asked the four unions to agree to furlough days. The Federal Government rejected the request for federal funding to repair lake front damage. Greenwood Beach will probably not open this summer because of damage. Plans are being made to make necessary lake front repairs.

Public comment. Three phone-in comments and one letter was read. Tina Paden asked for more information about the \$1 million proposed for housing services required by the pandemic. She wanted to know about the exit plan for the use of hotels and who is being assisted. One supported the elm tree program and one proposed delaying some expenses.

(SP1) Report on Affordable Housing Fund Expenses. Sarah Flax summarized the balance in the Housing Fund and anticipated expenses. Several aldermen raised questions. Flax agreed to follow up with Tina Paden on her questions. It was moved and approved to accept the Report.

(SP2) Authorization to use up to \$1 million from the Affordable Housing Fund to pay for Housing and Other Services for residents unable to comply with Stay at Home Order. Rainey pointed out that these expenses will likely be reimbursed by FEMA, although there is no guarantee. At present, 64 rooms are being used at one hotel, and 40 at another. After further discussion, the motion was approved, 9-0.

Consent agenda. Passed.

Discussion of items taken off the consent agenda from **Administration and Public Works**. Several of these items stimulated more thoughtful discussion than has often been the case. It is clear that aldermen are concerned about the prospective budget deficit and are looking for ways to cut expenditures. They are finding that it is not easy to find cuts.

(A2) Approval of purchase of a vehicle lift at the Service Center for maintenance of the City fleet at a cost of \$95,000. Staff explained that this would replace one of the 8 current lifts and all 8 are in use throughout the day. Braithwaite suggested deferring this purchase, but Wilson supported staff who said they needed all 8. The motion passed, 6-3, Braithwaite, Suffredin and Fleming voting no.

(A3) Approval of Contract for the Dutch Elm Tree Injection Program. Fleming said she could not approve when human services are in jeopardy. Wilson supported the alternative compromise outlined in the packet doing half the program this year and half the next. Many trees could be preserved, but more may die. When others pressed for the full program this year, Wilson and others said they would vote for the

compromise but against the full program. Others supported his position. The motion to support the compromise two-year program passed 7-2, Fiske and Fleming voting no.

(A5) Approval of Contract for Emergency Generator Replacement/Repairs at Police/Fire Headquarters, Fire Station 1 and Fire Station 2. There was some explanation of the specifics and the motion passed 9-0.

(A6) Approval of Contract for Civic Center Burner Replacement for \$117,000. Several aldermen opposed this purchase as a “band-aid” approach to major Civic Center needs. Rainey said this is a vital need for the HVAC system and is required. The building needs to be functional. Braithwaite suggested this was the time to explore options to the Civic Center but Rainey pointed out that no move will be possible in the immediate future and this repair will take several months and is essential for the winter. Discussion went on. The motion passed 7-2, Suffredin and Braithwaite voting no.

(A8) Approval of Emergency Assistance Guidelines for the Entrepreneurship Support Program. This will allow support for very small businesses from the \$50,000 fund. Suffredin asked whether this is the highest need. The motion passed 8-1, Suffredin voting no.

(A10) Extending the State of Emergency until June 8. Fleming asked why we need a City Emergency Declaration and the City Attorney said it was necessary to coordinate the City Emergency Declaration with the State Declaration and explained why. The motion passed 9-0.

(A12) Amending City Code to add a Loading Zone at 1723 Simpson Street – for Introduction. Alderman Rue Simmons explained that this is the headquarters of Meals on Wheels which is doing much more extensive service and needs a dedicated loading space. Several aldermen expressed appreciation for the expanded work of Meals on Wheels. The motion passed 9-0.

During the Call of the Wards Aldermen expressed appreciation for the good work of City staff and many citizens.

Council recessed into Executive Session at 7:35 pm.